

PREVENTING EXTINCTIONS

Philippine Eagle
Pithecophaga jefferyi



The Philippine Eagle (© Nigel Voaden/www.rarebirdyearbook.com).



Background

Philippine Eagle is endemic to the Philippines, where it is known from eastern Luzon, Samar, Leyte and Mindanao. Mindanao supports the bulk of the population, with recent research estimating 82-233 breeding pairs, and very few pairs are thought to remain on the other three islands. Poor recruitment to the breeding population was previously thought to be a key factor in the decline of the species, but recent research suggests that the dispersal and survival of juveniles and sub-adults is of greater concern.

Forest destruction and fragmentation, through commercial timber extraction and shifting cultivation, is the principal long-term threat. However in the short-term uncontrolled hunting (for food and, at least formerly, zoo exhibits and trade) is perhaps the most significant threat, as exemplified by the death of one of only two released captive-bred individuals due to hunting.

Actions being implemented

1. Surveys are to be conducted to **validate sightings by locals** in the Mt Irid–Mt Angelo IBA, Luzon, making a special effort to locate eagle nest-sites.
2. Further **research** is planned into the floral and faunal composition of areas where the eagle is sighted.
3. There are plans to begin a **conservation awareness campaign** within the local communities around the Mt Irid–Mt Angelo IBA.
4. Local teachers are being trained to help build their capacity to develop **nature education programmes** for local schools and communities, with the aim of engaging young people in biodiversity conservation.

Supported by

